

# The Icelandic Canadian

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EDITORIAL — CHRISTMAS 1958, Gustaf Kristjanson.....	12
SPECIAL FEATURES—THE CANADA ICELAND FOUNDATION.....	13
INTERNATIONAL JURIST ON ICELANDS FISHERIES.....	30
ARTICLES—A PRE-EMINENT LAWYER, Hon. Asmundur Benson.....	18
GUTTORMUR J. GUTTORMSSON .....	25
GUDRUN SIMONAR, .....	21
O. T. ANDERSON.....	26
AXEL VOPNFJORD.....	28
VILHJALMUR STEFANSSON.....	34
TWO MESSAGES, Mrs. Rannveig K. G. Sigbjornsson.....	38
MUSIC SELECTION.....	32
NEWS LETTER— Louise, Gudmunds.....	35
FICTION—SIGHT AND INSIGHT, Bogi Bjarnason.....	36
READER'S COMMENTS .....	37
BOOK REVIEW— Dr. Richard Beck.....	53
IN THE NEWS — 17, 29, 38 39	NEWS SUMMARY — 48
ADVERTISING INDEX .....	64

## THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN

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## CHRISTMAS 1958

Once again the season approaches when—according to tradition—Christmas candles are lit, the Yule log is set ablaze, and one and all raise their voices in the song of Peace on Earth, Good Will toward men. The message of hope is once again renewed—of hope in the midst of darkness, hope of man's triumph over the evil forces that beset him. This is the essence of Christmas: that Hope has come into the world and shall triumph over Evil. Throughout the ages hope has ever blazed anew at this, the season of the winter solstice; and since the dawn of Christianity the season has been invested with a special significance.

Our observance of Christmas descends from a complex tradition, and one which has evolved from a variety of sources. Our own ancestors associated a good many beliefs and customs with the Christmas season which we would somewhat indulgently regard as quaint superstitions. According to their tradition, all manner of hostile beings were abroad at this season—goblins and elves who had come to wreak mischief upon hapless folk who knew not how to resist their wiles. These creatures were considered inimical to the spirit of Christmas, and not infrequently the name of Christ was invoked to protect people of faith and good will from the visitations of these hostile demons.

Today we can smile at these romantic medieval superstitions. We are much too sophisticated to be intimidated by elves and goblins and trolls. No longer do we need to proclaim, at the Yuletide season, as primitive people did, our defiance of and victory over the long long nights and frigid winter days. We are much too well housed to be unduly concerned by the icy blasts which the unfriendly elements may unleash against us.

But in spite of all this, the dangers and perils of modern civilization are greater than any experienced by men of former times. The possibility of war, too destructive to contemplate, must remain as an ever present threat until people the world over learn the age-old message of Peace on Earth and Good Will toward one another. That this message will be heeded must remain our most heartfelt hope on this, and all other Christmases to come.

Gustaf Kristjanson

## THE CANADA-ICELAND FOUNDATION

People from many lands have come to Canada. Each national group will contribute to this new nation something of value from its own heritage.

The early pioneers in Canada created organizations that served their special needs and interests. Mutual assistance in a difficult and often harsh environment was at times a paramount consideration. It was natural for them to feel that a channel of communication with their homeland had to be maintained. Separation only served to accentuate patriotic attachment to their native land. Distance so often magnifies and glorifies in the mind earlier environmental influences and associations. This applies as much to settlers from Great Britain as to people of non-British origin.

Churches and schools were established early. These and other organizations and societies were formed to provide a community of interest for people with similar problems of adjustment in a new land. They fostered and preserved a knowledge of the history, language, and literature of the motherland, and at the same time cultivated an understanding of Canada, its language, laws, and institutions.

From the time of the arrival of the first Icelandic pioneers, more than eighty years ago, they and their descendants have been adapting themselves to the Canadian environment. Through association and intermarriage we have been gradually merging our identity in the Canadian nation. This assimilation has changed our social, economic, and cultural outlook. In consequence, some of the earlier needs that were satisfied by Icelandic organizations have passed.

With each decade it has become increasingly difficult to maintain the effectiveness of some of these organizations. This is not surprising. The objectives which were useful and attainable in the circumstances of forty, thirty, or even twenty years ago are not necessarily either useful or possible now. On the other hand, the opportunity for new objectives, both useful and attainable, ought now to rekindle an interest in and admiration for the best in our Icelandic heritage.

Canadians of Icelandic descent can make a contribution to Canadianism. We can draw on a cultural heritage which for a thousand years has been steeped in devotion to learning and to our sagas and poetry, so vividly expressed in an ancient language, remarkably well preserved. As it happens, this language we love is the Old Norse language from which so much in modern English stems. It is as essential to advanced studies in philology as Old Anglo-Saxon, to which it is so closely related. But it is unique in that it is a classical language and also a living language, spoken to this day. It is used and treasured by a people, few to be sure, but still forming an independent nation honored with membership both in the United Nations and in NATO. Freedom, representative government, the rule of law, love of land and language, peace and poetry—in these for a thousand years have flourished the noble sentiments which permeate Icelandic culture. The descendants in Canada of the people who for so long have so fully accepted these concepts have an opportunity and a duty to make their contribution to the cultural pattern of Canada.

By the establishment of the Canada Council the people of Canada, through their government, have declared that the time has come when an organized effort must be made to stimulate cultural development. Already the Canada Council has helped to activate Canadian talent in art, music, and literature. Its broad objectives offer an opportunity and hold out a challenge to such an organization as the Canada-Iceland Foundation to add its little to the great effort now under way to promote cultural progress in Canada. In common with other Canadians, we of Icelandic descent have a responsibility to join hands and to seek the help of others to ensure that something from the basic and enduring values in our heritage is diffused into Canadianism.

A few years ago \$220,000 was raised and donated to the University of Manitoba to establish a permanent Chair in Icelandic language and literature. In the years ahead this achievement will aid and encourage the aims and the efforts of the Canada-Iceland Foundation.

The aims are established. They seem highly worth while and attainable with joint effort. Much has been done. More needs to be done. Many interviews have already taken place. Letters have been written and encouraging answers received from many prominent individuals in Canada, Iceland, and the United States. Approval of the general plan was obtained from the Icelandic National League, the Icelandic Canadian Club, the Jon Sigurdson Chapter of the I.O.D.E., the trustees of the Hekla-Skuld Fund, and the Icelandic Celebration Committee of Manitoba. A committee complementary to the Foundation was established in Iceland under the name "Ísland-Kanada Ráð".

The main objects of the Canada-Iceland Foundation as laid down in the Charter Agreement are:

1. To foster and strengthen the cultural bonds and mutual understanding between Canada and Iceland.
2. To promote an understanding and appreciation of the related Icelandic and Canadian heritage in fields of representative government and the rule of law.
3. To encourage and give assistance to the establishment and maintenance of Icelandic as one of the subjects in post-graduate and honors courses in English.
4. To assist or give scholarships to students studying Icelandic at Canadian Universities.
5. To assist Canadians of Icelandic descent in the study and development of, and the production of works in the arts, humanities and social sciences.
6. To award scholarships to, or otherwise assist students from Iceland to attend Canadian Universities, and students from Canada to attend the University of Iceland.
7. To encourage and give assistance to the translation of Icelandic literature into English and Canadian literature into Icelandic.
8. To encourage and give assistance to visits and performances, exhibitions and publications of Icelandic artists in Canada and Canadian artists in Iceland.
9. To assist in the collection and preservation of works of art, crafts, books, periodicals, etc.



scripts, and documents by or relating to the people of Iceland or people of Icelandic descent.

The Charter Agreement provides that the Foundation may assist associations, publishers, and other organizations whose aims and objects are similar to the objects of the Foundation.

The Foundation may acquire money, securities, or other property by gift, bequest, or otherwise, and may expend, administer, or dispose of any such money, securities, or other property subject to the terms, if any, upon which such money, securities or other property is given, bequeathed, or otherwise made available to the Foundation.

It was agreed from the beginning that the proposed organization should, if it were to fulfil its multiple duties, include representatives of governments, institutions of higher learning, and other nation-wide organizations. The general membership will be drawn from Canadians of Icelandic extraction and others interested for one reason or another in the purposes and objects of the Foundation.

The Honorary Officers, and the present Charter Members are:

#### Grand Patrons

His Excellency, Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey, C.H., Governor-General of Canada.  
His Excellency, Asgeir Asgeirsson, President of Iceland.

#### Honorary Advisory Council

Hon. Sidney E. Smith, Secretary of State for External Affairs, Canada.  
Hon. Gudmundur I. Gudmundsson, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Iceland.  
Mr. Andrew Stewart, President of the National Conference of Canadian Universities, and the President of the University of Alberta.  
Prof. Dr. Thorkell Johannesson, Rector of the University of Iceland, Reykjavik.

Dr. C. J. Mackenzie, President of the Association of Canadian Clubs, Ottawa.  
Rt. Rev. Asmundur Gudmundsson, Bishop of Iceland.

#### C. Board of Trustees

The affairs of the Canada-Iceland Foundation are administered by a Board of Trustees, the numbers of which may be enlarged from time to time.

#### D. Honorary Trustees

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Dr. Gestur Kristjansson, M.D., 102 Osborne Medical Building, Winnipeg.  
Rev. P. M. Petursson, Ph. B., Vice-President of the Icelandic National League, Winnipeg.

## **G. Membership in the Foundation**

(1) To qualify for membership in the Canada-Iceland Foundation a person must make an annual contribution to the funds of the Foundation of not less than \$50. All contributions are deductible for income tax purposes.

(2) All the members of the Executive Council and the following are Charter Members of the Canada-Iceland Foundation:

Oscar Finnbogason, Saskatoon, Sask.

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Dr. T. Thorvaldson, Saskatoon, Sask.

(3) All persons who are members of the Canada-Iceland Foundation at the time of incorporation under The Companies Act of Canada

shall be Charter Members of Foundation. The application such incorporation has not been made.

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## **The Island-Kanada Rad**

A branch or parallel organization the Foundation has been established in Iceland under the name "Ísland Kanada Ráð". The following are members thereof:

Hallgrímur F. Hallgrímsson, Canadian Consul General in Iceland.  
Vilhjálmur Thor, Bank Manager.  
Thorkell Johannesson, Rector, University of Iceland.

Asmundur Guðmundsson, Bishop of Iceland.

Gylfi Th. Gíslason, Minister of Education.

Guðmundur I. Guðmundsson, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Gunnar Thoroddsen, Mayor of Reykjavík.

Bjarni Benediktsson, Editor of Morgunblaðið.

Sigurður Nordal, Former Ambassador to Denmark.

Sigurður Sigurðsson, Head of Institution for Prevention of Tuberculosis.

Guðmundur Vilhjálmsson, Manager of the Iceland Steamship Company.

The first three named constitute the Executive Committee and Hallgrímur F. Hallgrímsson is the Chairman. For the time being the prime function of the Ráð will be to advise on and submit applications from Iceland for nominating Fellowships and Scholarships under Section 8 of the Regulations of the Canada Council.

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## **Conclusion**

The above is an outline of the organization and objectives of the Canada-Iceland Foundation. The

which led to the formation of this new organization originated with Judge Walter J. Lindal, the Chairman of the group. He has been responsible in a large measure for the progress which has already been made. In the formation of policy, establishing objectives, and providing for the details of organization, he has received from the beginning the counsel and the enthusiastic support of Charter Members of the organization. Application for a Charter membership will be open until such time as the organization is fully incorporated and registered under the laws of Canada.

Membership is open to anyone who wishes to support or participate in the activities of the Foundation. Its success will depend upon the support and co-operation of a substantial number of individuals.

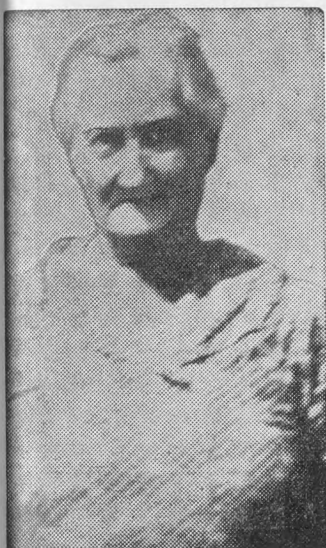
Applications for membership in the Canada-Iceland Foundation will be received by Grettir Eggertson, Treasurer, 78 Ash Street, Winnipeg 9, Manitoba.

**Stefan Hansen,**

Released for publication this 10th day of December, 1958

Secretary, Canada-Iceland Foundation

## PASSED THE CENTURY MARK



**Mrs. Margret Olafsson**

Mrs. Margret Olafsson of Selkirk, Manitoba, one of few Icelanders in Canada who have in their time passed the century mark, celebrated her 105th birthday last Sept. 17. Mrs. Olafsson is believed to be presently the oldest living Icelander in North America. Born in Iceland in 1856 she came with

her husband to Canada in 1884. They settled in the inter-lake district of Arnes in Manitoba and five years later moved to Selkirk where Mrs. Olafsson has since lived. She makes her home with her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Johann Olafsson.

★

## HONORED BY WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT

A high honor was conferred last summer upon **Stanley T. Olafson** of Los Angeles, Cal., by the West German Government. Manager of the World Trade Department of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce Mr. Olafson was presented with the Officers' Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal German Republic by the German consul-general in California, Dr. Eduard C. Schneider. The presentation was made before the chamber's board of directors for his "outstanding contribution to the promotion of international commerce during the past 30 years." Mr. Olafson is honorary consul in California of the Republic of Iceland and past president of the Foreign Trade Association of Southern California.

HON. BARÐI G. SKULASON,

## A PRE-EMINENT LAWYER

by HON. ASMUNDUR BENSON, District Judge, State of North Dakota



Hon. Barði G. Skulason

On January 19, 1958, one of the most famous lawyers of Icelandic descent, the Hon. Barði G. Skulason, of Portland, Oregon, observed his 87th birthday in that great city in the presence of many friends, relatives and admirers.

This great lawyer was born in Iceland on January 19, 1871. He came with his parents to Canada when he was five years old. The family remained in northern Manitoba, Canada, for a period of five years, and in 1880 came across the line to Pembina County, North Dakota. They had heard the glowing stories and the marvelous promise of the Red River Valley. They were able to take the train to Pembina, North Dakota, and from there a distance of over 40 miles they came by ox team and on foot where they settled

on unsurveyed land in what is the Mountain, North Dakota, and

Like most other families that came from Iceland or other foreign countries in those days, the Skulason family was very poor, and depended on their own ingenuity and ability to get out a living in a foreign country as the United States was to them at that time. Bardi's father had often told him that America was the land of opportunity where men were self-made.

Bardi soon acquired a burning desire for an education, and after attending the local schools and learning everything he could from them, he obtained a permit to teach school at the young age of sixteen. He taught at Afton, North Dakota, for three months at \$30.00 a month in the winter of 1887 and 1888. He taught at Eyford in 1888 at \$35.00 a month; and also taught at Mountain, North Dakota, for \$30.00 a month.

In 1888, having saved up \$90.00 so from his teaching, Bardi entered the University of North Dakota; and by working in the harvest fields, teaching, teaching school, and doing any and every other job that he could get at the University, he graduated with a B.A. in 1895, and earned a Phi Kappa key, plus a life certificate in teaching school. He secured a job at Hillsboro, North Dakota, at \$75.00 per month, and the next year at \$100.00 per month. During these years of teaching he devoted his spare moment that he could to the study of law; and in September,

he was admitted to the Bar in North Dakota.

Bardi Skulason started his law practice in Grand Forks, North Dakota, in the fall of 1897. For a time his younger brother, Skuli Skulason, was in partnership with him. Skuli died several years ago at the age of 77. Later on the Hon. O. B. Burtness, who is at present one of the First Judicial District judges of North Dakota, became the junior partner of the firm of Skulason & Burtness. Bardi Skulason served for some time as assistant state's attorney of Grand Forks County; and for ten years he lectured on private corporations at the University of North Dakota Law School.

Mr. Skulason married Charlotte H. Robinson on October 25, 1896, at Bismarck, North Dakota. Two children were born of this marriage, Dagmar Skulason, now Mrs. Eremeeff, and Rolfe V. Skulason. At the tender age of only 17 Rolfe entered the army in World War I. He served in the infantry, finally in the Rainbow Division, and was in at least two major engagements, at St. Mihiel and on the drive later from the Marne. Upon return from the service he entered the University of Oregon and graduated there in the spring of 1923, and then went to Yale for his law and graduated there in 1925. He was in law practice with his father for three or four years in Portland, Oregon, and he died in 1942.

Mrs. Eremeeff now lives with her father in his spacious 14-room Dutch Colonial home in Portland, as do Mrs. Eremeeff's son, Jon Bardi Eremeeff, 26; in the army at the present time; and Mrs. Joseph (Karen) Eoff, a daughter of Mrs. Eremeeff. A great granddaughter, Deborah Eoff, was two July 2nd.

Mr. Skulason early in life became

very much interested in politics, and is a Republican. In 1908 he was elected to the House of Representatives for the State of North Dakota, where he became very prominent because of his ability as a public speaker. He was the author of North Dakota's non-partisan judiciary law and the child labor law.

Mr. Skulason rose to prominence in his profession very quickly. During his entire residence in the State his services were sought from all over the State of North Dakota. This was because he was a marvelous trial lawyer and a very eloquent speaker.

In 1911, at the age of 41, Mr. Skulason heeded the advice of Horace Greeley who said, "Go west young man and grow up with the country", and went west and settled in the beautiful city of Portland, Oregon. For some time he was in partnership with the late Guy C.H. Corliss; later on he was in the Clark firm of Clark, Skulason & Clark; and was also in practice with his son Rolfe W. Skulason; but most of the time he was in practice alone.

Bardi Skulason has always been very loyal and intensely American. He is, and has always been, a great patriot. In line with that he enlisted as a volunteer in World War I, although he was then well past the age limit for army service.

Mr. Skulason has always been a good friend of North Dakota. He exemplified this by establishing the Skulason Scholarship at the University of North Dakota in 1924, which annually pays \$250.00 to be awarded to a worthy and needy student.

Bardi's rise to prominence in the practice of his profession in the great City of Portland, Oregon, was just as rapid as it was while he was practicing



in North Dakota. In 1923 he represented Mrs. Loretta Day of Portland, Oregon, formerly of Wallace Idaho, in a case which involved a very large sum of money over the estate of her husband. After much litigation he secured a settlement of \$1,200,000, and received a fee of \$400,000, which in that day, and even in the inflation of today, is a tremendously large amount. According to the Portland Oregonian this was the largest attorney's fee up to that time ever paid to any attorney west of the Mississippi River.

In 1942, Mr. Skulason was appointed consul for Iceland in Portland; and also in 1942 he was appointed by the late Governor Snell to serve on the public welfare board, and he is still active in both.

At the time Mr. Skulason celebrated his 87th birthday he was working on a million dollar trust case. His client had entered into a trust agreement with one of the banks in Portland, Oregon, in 1950. In 1954 this man became dissatisfied with the trust agreement and wanted to change it or break it, and the bank would not agree. He went to one of the big law firms in the city, put his case before them, and after studying the matter they told him that it was not possible to have it set aside, and charged him a fee of \$750. He went to other lawyers and the answer was the same, that the agreement could not be set aside. Finally he came to see Mr. Skulason, told him about this trust agreement, and he said, "I believe it can be set aside". He brought the action and it was set aside. In those cases the judges set the fees,

and Mr. Skulason was allowed a fee of \$25,000.

On the 228th of May, 1958, the Multnomah County Bar Association, which includes the City of Portland, held a testimonial dinner in honor of Bardi Skulason in recognition of his great ability and marvelous career. This is an honor that comes to very few men. The North Dakota Bar Association, at their annual meeting in Jamestown, North Dakota, in June of this year passed a resolution of congratulations to Mr. Skulason for his wonderful record and achievements.

Mr. Skulason, who neither drinks nor smokes, enjoys certain TV features especially those of an educational type and also enjoys the singing of songs of our artists. He reads in eight languages, Swedish, Danish, Norwegian, Icelandic, French, German, Latin and English; is fond of classics, good fiction, philosophy and poetry, particularly Poe and Burns.

Mr. Skulason is noted for his kindly, and ingratiating smile. He has demonstrated very vividly what Shakespeare meant when he said:

"What thou wilt,  
Thou must rather enforce it with  
Than hew to it with thy sword."

Bardi G. Skulason has achieved himself in the practice of law which places him No. 1 among lawyers of Icelandic descent in North America. Not only that, but he has become one of the great lawyers of this country.



# GUTTORMUR J. GUTTORMSSON PASSES THE FOUR SCORE MARK

Guttormur J. Guttormsson was born November 21, 1878, at Icelandic River (now Riverton), Manitoba, where he has lived the greater part of his life. Last month he celebrated his eightieth birthday, and he was publicly honoured at a large gathering under the auspices of The Icelandic National League on December 6, in the Unitarian Church in Winnipeg.

Guttormsson is undoubtedly the leading Icelandic Canadian poet of today. He began his poetical career half a century ago when his first book "Jón Austfirðingur" was published here in Winnipeg (in 1909). From the first Guttormsson emerged a fullfledged poet possessed with unusual descriptive qualities. "Jón Austfirðingur" is a unique piece of art, a condensed history of the first Icelandic immigrants to Manitoba, revealing deep insight and understanding of the plight of these people on the barren shores of Lake Winnipeg.

Many of his later poems are written in a similar vein, the best known being "Sandy Bar" the most impressive monument to the Icelandic pioneers in America "who emigrated, suffered and gave their lives without gaining visible victory."

A prominent characteristic pervading Guttormsson's poetry is his sense of humour, often with an ironical touch, especially in his "humanitarian-socialistic" satires in which he skilfully makes use of exaggeration.

In spite of relatively little schooling and the time-consuming task of the farmer, Guttormsson is well versed in the world's literature, English and Icelandic in particular. His philosophical



Guttormur J. Guttormsson

and symbolic poems bear witness to extensive reading and deep thinking.

In addition to his poetry Guttormsson is the author of "Ten Plays" and has been considered by authorities to be "the best expressionist playwright in Icelandic".

The works of Guttormur J. Guttormsson have brought his native land, New Iceland, into Modern Icelandic Literature and won for him the distinction of being one of the great Icelandic authors of this century.

Guttormsson has written five volumes of poetry: Jón Austfirðingur (1909), Bóndadóttir (1920), Gaman og alvara (1930), Hunangsflugur (1944), and Kanada þistill, (Nov. 21, 1958), One book of short plays, Tíu Leikrit appeared in 1951.—H. B.

## Samples of the Poetry of Guttormur J. Guttormsson

One of his more recent poems, probably appearing in "Kanada þistill" "Jarðgöngin." In a special edition of the University of Toronto Quarterly, is a survey of Canadian literature published in 1957. In that edition Dr. Wats Kirkconnell, says:

"Perhaps the finest prosodic achievement of the year is Guttormur J. Guttormsson's 'The Subterranean Passage' printed in the Annual of the Icelandic National League. The hand of this octogenarian has not lost its cunning building the lofty rhyme with the Classical diction of the saga folk." The original and Dr. Kirkconnell's translation follow.

### Jarðgöngin

Hamarsins svarta, háa tindsins  
harla lágu klettagöngin  
knúð er eimlestin inn að fara,  
undirlögð sporbraut þar um vélar.

Ásahlymur og hjólaþytur,  
hósti reykháfs og stunur teina  
verða nú að niðurbældri  
nætúrþrumu í iðrum jarðar.

Logar glatt undir lífsins katli,  
liðast reykurinn meðfram gluggum  
sortaþrunginn, þögull vottur  
þess að lifir vel í kolum.

Þó sé myrkur á fyrir utan  
inni er bjart í sálarvagni;  
lampar undir lágri hvelving  
lýsa í honum sjálfum inni.

Vagninn lýstur upp að innan  
—undir mælikeri að sönnu,  
lýstum gluggum er að utan  
eins og vaði tungl í skýjum.

Ljóssins vant ef yrði inni,  
eins og í Surtarhelli niðri,  
ofan mundi rjáfur riða  
roflausrar nætur Dimmuborgar.

Hendi ei slys, og hinstu ferðar  
hinsti kaflinn sé ei þessi,  
skín þá inn um alla glugga  
eilífa ljósið hinumegin.

Það er takmark—enginn endi—  
upphaf nýrrar og betri ferðar  
undir himinloftum lýstum  
ljósi hinumegin grafar.

## The Tunnel

Crags of shadow, crests high-soaring,  
Crowd above a low rock-tunnel:  
There the train perforce must travel,  
Twisting paths await the engine.

Giant clash and wheel-flange griding,  
Groan of piston, cough of funnel,  
Now are muted as by night-time  
Nodding worlds' retreating thunders.

Fire is fierce beneath the boiler,  
Fume goes reeking past the windows,  
Bloated black, a silent witness,  
Blowzy smoke that coal can foster.

Darkness dwells outside the carriage,  
Dazzling brightness reigns within it;  
Low its roof but lamps are radiant,  
Light within makes glad the spirit.

Bright the coach with coruscations  
Caught within and outward shining  
Like a star of steadfast splendour  
Stately through the cloud-rack riding.

If, within, the light were lacking,  
Livid black like deep Inferno,  
Riding on its roof would endless  
Ruined nights enhance the darkness.

If no accident of evil  
Utterly destroys our journey,  
Then shall wake through every window  
Widening light from realms beyond us.

Now the end—yet not an ending—  
New and better journeys' starting  
Under sheerest skies unshadowed  
Shines beyond the grave-pit's tunnel.

"Góða nótt", one of the earlier poems was translated by Jakobina Johnsen and both the original and the translation were published in "Icelandic Lyrics and Songs" selected and edited by Dr. Richard Beck and published in 1930.

### GÓÐA NÓTT

Dúnað er allra átta,  
allir vindar geims sig náttu,  
nú er álfa heims að háttu,  
hinztu geislar slökkna skjótt,  
húmsins svarta silkiskýla  
sveipar þekjar vorra býla,  
upp er jörðin eins og hvíla  
öllu búin. —Góða nótt!  
Upp til hvíldar öllu búin  
er nú jörðin. Góða nótt!

### GOOD NIGHT

Stillness reigns.—The winds are sleeping  
All our world is bent on keeping  
Tryst with night, whose wings are sweet  
From the West each ray of light.  
Dusk,—a soft and silken cover  
Over all is seen to hover  
In its readiness to cover  
All the drowsy world.—Good night.  
Earth, —a restful bed inviting  
All her tired to sleep. —Good night.

Any sampling of Guttormsson's poetry would be most incomplete if a chance were not made to Sandy Bar. Space permits only one verse appearing the last one.

Stytti upp, og himinn heiður  
hvelfdist, stormur, meginbreiður  
eins og vegur valinn, greiður  
var í lofti sunnanfar.  
Rofinn eldibrandi bakki  
beint í norður var á flakki,  
stjörnuþjartur, heiður himinn  
hvelfdist yfir Sandy Bar,  
himinn, landnám landnemanna,  
ljómaði yfir Sandy Bar.

Breaks the storm, the sky is clear  
Starry canopy appearing,  
Wide a way, to heaven nearing,  
Winds are sweeping from afar.  
Bolts of lightning, bursting, rift  
Banks of clouds to northward drift  
Starlit, clear, the silvery heaven  
All enshrines on Sandy Bar.  
Heaven, shelter of the settlers  
Softly gleams on Sandy Bar.

—W.J.



## Gudrun Simonar — Finest Voice Here This Season

The Music critic of The Winnipeg Free Press, Ken Winters, had the above caption over his column on Thursday, November 6 after hearing Gudrun Simonar in recital at the Playhouse Theatre.

The Free Press critic had this to say: "Miss Simonar's voice is superb; easily produced and even in quality over its entire range. Her singing is sweetly intoned, clear and flexible. I could, in fact, detect no technical flaws of any kind.

The expressive side of her work is less strong than the purely vocal. A certain briskness and lack of personal involvement in the poetry, pervaded all but the Icelandic songs. These had the extra dimension, the conviction, that makes singing art. There were seven, counting encores, and each left me with a distinct impression of a precisely imparted emotional content, even though the language was strange to me.

The rest of the recital had its own virtues. In songs of Brahms, Delius, Falla, and arias of Puccini and Mascagni, nothing was false or tasteless, and everything was completely musical, carried by the delicious ringing of Miss Simonar's voice."

The music critic of The Tribune, S. Maley, reported thus:

"Gudrun Simonar, publicity states, is the foremost soprano in Iceland. After hearing her first recital in Canada at the Playhouse Theatre one would not question the verdict.

Miss Simonar has one of the most rich and opulent soprano voices one has heard in many a season. She sings in

pure bel canto style, which is not surprising, for she has studied with Carmen Melis, in Milan, who was Renata Tebaldi's teacher.

Miss Simonar displays several faults which disturb one musically and interpretatively, but the sounds she makes, the beautiful smooth legato line, the even scale throughout a large compass, the unceasing technical fluency and good pitch almost repel adverse comment.

Taking into account the brevity of all of Miss Simonar's songs, in which tonal and interpretative appeal were limited, one could sense the need of greater intensity in several songs, and deeper penetration of verbal mood and atmosphere. But nothing was poorly sung, even if not completely satisfying.

The native Icelandic songs were lovely in color and appeal and some displayed comic vein in Miss Simonar's sensibilities. An encore, Svanasongur Á Heiði by Kaldalons, and a lullaby by Sigurdur Thordarson, greatly contrasted in mood and tone, were most memorable. Rich medium and lower notes brought special appeal to the Kaldalons song.

Snjolaug Sigurdson, Winnipeg pianist, was both sympathetic and musically sensitive in support of the impressive vocalist."

Mayor Stephen Juba, on behalf of the citizens of Winnipeg, presented Gudrun Simonar with a framed honorary citizenship scroll.

Miss Simonar gave recitals at Arborg and Gimli, October 23, and 24, where she was well received. Miss Snjolaug Sigurdson was her accompanist.

Miss Simonar gave a recital on CBC-

Television in Winnipeg on Wednesday, November 12, with Miss Sigurdson at the piano. She sang several Icelandic songs to the delight of the viewers. She sang in Vancouver, B.C. November 17, Bellingham, Washington, the 18, Seattle, Washington, the 21. Arrangements have been made with the Canadian Broadcasting Company for Miss Simonar to appear on the Distinguished Artists programme on a coast to

coast radio broadcast. Watch for the date in local newspapers.

This is Miss Simonar's first visit to Canada. She has sung her way into our hearts and one hopes that she will return soon.

The Icelandic National League and the Canada-Iceland Foundation are to be congratulated in presenting Miss Simonar, Iceland's foremost soprano, to Canadian audiences.

Mattie Halldorsdottir

## OLAFUR T. ANDERSON

"One of the most revered and respected members of the faculty" is the tribute paid by the student publication "Uniter" to the memory of Professor O. T. Anderson, member of the staff of Wesley College, later United College, for forty-one years and Dean of Arts and Science for thirty-one years. Dean Anderson was a counsellor and friend to successive generations of students during his long association with the college and as an outstanding teacher and mathematician he earned the respect and affection of his students.

Dean Anderson was born in Selkirk, Manitoba, in 1890, and had reached the age of sixty-seven on his death, October 6, 1958. His parents, Sigurdur and Olina Bjorg Anderson (nee Nordal), were among the early Icelandic arrivals in Manitoba. His father died in 1902. A maternal uncle was Sigurdur Nordal, distinguished Icelandic scholar, teacher, writer and diplomat.

One of a family of nine, young Anderson was actively employed in his boyhood and youth. Mostly he worked for the Northern Fish Company at various jobs, and after he entered University he returned to the company



Olafur T. Anderson

each summer. For two undergraduate seasons he was bookkeeper and clerk at Warren's Landing, on Lake Winnipeg.

He entered Wesley College as an arts student in 1909 and graduated in 1913. Mathematics and physics were his special subjects. "I actually managed to get through each year", he recalled, many years later.

For the next four years he worked on the University physics staff, under Frank Allen, combining classroom

laboratory duties with advanced studies. He obtained his Master of Arts degree and Bachelor of Science degree in 1915. He was the first to graduate from the University of Manitoba with a Master's degree in Mathematics.

He was appointed to the teaching staff of Wesley College, in 1917, and he succeeded his colleague, Professor Skuli Johnson, as Dean of Arts and Science in 1927. On the union of Wesley College and Manitoba College, in 1935, Dean Anderson became Dean of the United College. He served in his post with distinction to the day of his death.

Dean Anderson was familiarly and affectionately known to his students as "O.T.", which was sometimes interpreted as "On Time". He was methodical, persistent, and attended strictly to business. He was devoted to his work and gave unstintingly of his time and energy to his teaching and administrative duties.

Dean Anderson had a great love of teaching. "It is doubtful whether the province ever had an equal to him in the teaching of mathematics", says Carlyle Allison in an editorial in **The Winnipeg Tribune**. He had the gift of simplifying and illuminating mathematical problems for non-mathematical minds and with that he combined perseverance and kindly interest in his students. "He had a keen probing mind, an independent spirit, a sharp and sometimes penetrating sense of humour, easy accessibility to all students, these are the things which will make Dean Anderson remembered by his students", says the University students paper, **The Manitoban**.

Dean Anderson made his contribution to the college and the University in a wider field. His wide knowledge and experience and exceptional mem-

ory were of great value in the direction of college affairs. His colleagues in the Mathematics department state that they have never worked under anyone more cooperative. As an administrator he was respected for all his decisions, which were based on "a profound sense of justice". He was a member of both the University Council and the Senate of the University of Manitoba as representative of his affiliated college. For twenty years he was chairman of the Mathematical Division of the Manitoba High School Examination Board.

As a youth Dean Anderson was interested in sports and he played soccer, basketball, and hockey. In his capacity as faculty representative on the University Athletic Directorate he travelled with the Allan Cup team to Ottawa in 1928 and the rugby team to Vancouver in 1930.

Dean Anderson's deep concern for education and his interest in his students was reflected in the bursaries and scholarships which he established for about twenty or thirty deserving students. His enjoyment of the outdoors and his love of growing things were reflected in his beautiful garden. He used to grow as many as eight hundred plants a year and his home was surrounded by a blaze of color.

Dean Anderson was married to Miss Helena Kennedy, in 1916. She is remembered by the students who knew her as an interested and friendly hostess. Mrs. Anderson died in 1940.

Dean "O.T." Anderson will be fondly remembered by several thousands of students who came in personal contact with him and benefited from his teaching and kindly interest, throughout his long career.

W. KRISTJANSON

## AXEL VOPNFJORD

It has often been said that the true measure of a man's worth is to be found in the quality of the work he has performed or the institutions he has built or taken a leading part in building. Using that as the yardstick it is not difficult to judge the merits of the service which Axel Vopnfjord, a teacher of Winnipeg, has rendered for a number of years. Through that service one can vision the qualities of mind.

Axel Vopnfjord came to the attention of Steve Melnyk, feature writer of The Winnipeg Tribune, who writes a special series under the name "The Third Dimension". This term includes all Canadians who are of neither British nor French descent, thus the third element in the population of Canada. Men and women are selected for the series who have made valuable contributions to the building of Canada and the moulding of her people.

The article on Axel Vopnfjord appeared in the Saturday edition of Nov. 22, 1958. It centres around the Technical-Vocational High School of Winnipeg, which was opened in the fall of 1951. It is reported that the school was the dream child of R. J. Johns, then Director of Technical Education in Manitoba. The three-way purpose of the school was "to turn out good craftsmen, scholars and citizens".

Steve Melnyk says:

"For its educational scope and its facilities to provide topnotch instruction within that scope, Tec-Voc is probably unsurpassed on the American continent. . .

"With the early staff of approximately seven teachers instructing 150 students, Axel Vopnfjord taught mathematics and science. Today 50 teachers



**Axel Vopnfjord**

instruct over 1100 students and another 1900 attend evening classes in adult education. Mr. Vopnfjord continues teaching mathematics and science during day studies; he is principal of Tec-Voc's evening classes.

"As one on a team behind 'an experiment' as Tec-Voc was termed at the start, Mr. Vopnfjord had a background of experience not only in teaching but also in evaluating the good citizenship demands".

As one of the "Third Dimension" who has taught in rural schools in Manitoba, in metropolitan Winnipeg, and on exchange in the State of Washington, Axel Vopnfjord has firmly established in his mind what he considers "musts" for newcomers or New Canadians, as they are appropriately called. The first "must" for the immigrant he points out is a knowledge of English, a second is "knowledge of the new land in which he finds himself".

The emphasis which Mr. Vopnfjord places on these two essentials for



newcomers is something all will readily understand who for the last decade or two have seen him in action. Mr. Vopnfjord has been on the Editorial Board of The Icelandic Canadian, a magazine serving one of Canada's ethnic groups, for many years and for two years was Chairman of the Board. As the representative of the Magazine he has attended meetings of the Canada Press Club, an organization of all the ethnic papers and periodicals in Winnipeg. There he has contacted editors of other ethnic publications and in that way his conviction has been

strengthened as to the foremost needs for the newcomer to Canada.

We of the Editorial Board want to be modest in our appraisal of the work of a fellow member on the Board. Axel's editorials speak for themselves. In discussions on policy his judgement has always been sound, and in his criticism of material submitted or in administrative detail he has been singularly objective. We need not go further; we need but state that we concur in Steve Melnyk's assessment of the soundness of the rules that Axel Vopnfjord has laid down. —W. J. L.

## OUR WEST COAST ICELANDIC POET HONOURED



Mrs. Jakobina Johnson

On October 24 last Mrs. Jakobina Johnson, the gifted poet and lecturer of Seattle, Wash., passed the 75th milestone in a life which may truly be said to be dedicated. A lyric poet, she has not only given expression to her in-

most thoughts and dreams in beautiful Icelandic poetry but has also selected other gems of Icelandic poetry and translated them into English, and in those translations has fully qualified within the Rossetti tradition, a transmission of a good poem in one language into a good poem in another. Few poets are thus doubly gifted as translating calls for other qualities than those of the poet who lavishes his thoughts in the language closest to his heart.

But of equal merit, and perhaps of greater value to posterity, has been Jakobina's interpretation to the American and Canadian public of the finest in Icelandic culture. Mrs. Johnson has delivered countless lectures on Icelandic language, poetry and history in different parts of the United States and Canada. This is missionary work of a high order and the appreciation of it came into the open in a celebration which was staged in Seattle just five days before the three-quarter century mark was reached. The gathering was not limited to a few friends and Icelandic admirers. It was under the auspices of the Seattle Chapter of the



American-Scandinavian Foundation; Vestri, the chapter in Seattle of the Icelandic National League; and the Women's organization in Seattle called "Eining". There was one unique feature about this celebration. Over one-hundred letters were received from all parts of the world and they are being bound into a portfolio for a permanent record. These letters and

the appreciation to which the gathering bore witness are a very fitting testimonial to the high esteem in which Jakobina Johnson is held, by people near and far, for her life's work. The portfolio will be a source of comfort in the twilight years to the poet, lecturer, the lover of all that is beautiful. The portfolio should eventually find a permanent resting place in a library here or in Iceland. —W. J. L.

## Internationally Known Jurist on the Claim of Iceland to Extended Territorial Waters

The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace publishes a booklet of about 250 pages five times a year under the title "International Conciliation". Each issue is devoted to a single topic, and is written by a specialist in that field.

The November 1958 issue is on the "Law of the Sea", a most timely subject for Icelanders and others interested in coastal fisheries. The author is Max Sorensen, an internationally known Danish jurist. The Editor-in-chief of International Conciliation says of Max Sorensen:

"He brings to his appraisal the insights not only of a lawyer but of a political scientist and expert in international affairs. He is Professor of Public Law at the University of Aarhus."

Max Sorensen makes the following very realistic and eminently fair commentary on the claim by Iceland of the right unilaterally to extend its territorial waters to 12 miles.

"The situation remains as ILC\* described it—state practice is not uniform

and certain States object to a territorial sea wider than 3 miles. On the other hand there also remains the position confirmed by the overwhelming majority of the governments represented at the Conference, that no state is entitled to extend its territorial sea beyond twelve miles. Even with this position firmly established, the need for a general settlement of the remaining legal issues is as great as ever. It is fair to assume, however, that after the Conference the three-mile rule can never again be taken into consideration as a possible element of any negotiated agreement. Future negotiations are bound to start where the deliberations of the Conference ended—that is, by agreeing the maximum breadth of six miles combined with certain exclusive fishing rights beyond that limit. It can also have to be borne in mind that as time goes on, the chance of induced states adopting a twelve-mile limit to withdraw from that limit are likely to diminish rather than increase.

Furthermore, the trend to expand the limits of sovereignty or exclusive jurisdiction of coastal states goes against The Geneva Conference failed to make any recommendation that governments not raise new claims before a settlement

\* International Law Commissions, set up by the General Assembly of the UN to further the "progressive development" of International Law.

conference could make another effort at reaching a solution; and certain states have not delayed in taking unilateral action. A special case is that of Iceland which, as mentioned previously, depends on fisheries for its very existence. It is a fact that certain species of fish in the sea around Iceland, such as haddock, plaice, and halibut, have been seriously menaced by over-fishing. The Icelandic government has striven for years, without success, to obtain international recognition of its claim to exclusive rights over the fishing grounds around Iceland, for the purpose of keeping foreign trawlers away and thereby protecting the stock. In 1952 the area of exclusive fishing rights was extended from three to four miles, measured from long straight baselines. The reaction of the British fishing industry, which was directly affected by this measure, was to close British ports to the landing of fish from Icelandic trawlers. The ban was not lifted until 1956, when an agreement was reached under which the four-mile limit was accepted *de facto*. In the meantime, however, the Icelandic fishing industry, which had made great progress in the processing of fish, found new markets in the United States and the Soviet Union. The Icelandic government refrained from asserting wider claims as long as the question of the territorial sea was under consideration in the United Nations, but when the Geneva Conference ended inconclusively on this point, it felt free not to wait any longer. With effect from September 1958, a twelve-mile limit was proclaimed. Formal protests were lodged by a number of European countries and, within the framework of NATO, attempts were made during August to find a compromise solution, mainly along the lines of the United States proposal at

the Geneva Conference, combined with certain conservation measures. The Icelandic government was unwilling to accept any compromise and took steps to enforce the twelve-mile limit. Most other governments whose trawlers are fishing around Iceland advised them to stay outside the new limit, but the British government afforded naval protection to assert the traditional right of British trawlers to fish up to the previous four-mile limit.

Unilateral acts purporting to submit areas of the high seas to the exclusive jurisdiction of the coastal state must, in general, be considered incompatible with the principles of international law, and a country whose rights are violated by such measures is entitled to take protective action. The difficulty in the Icelandic case is the extraordinary importance of fishing to the whole economy of the country. Hard cases make bad laws, and an equitable solution of the Icelandic issue might involve a departure from the principles that would generally be applicable to such unilateral acts. However that may be, the dispute is an unfortunate consequence of the fact that the Geneva Conference failed to settle the breadth of the territorial sea and exclusive fishing zones".

The heavy type is that of this writer. It does appear that Mr. Sorensen has suggested a very sound position for Iceland to take, viz., that the "extraordinary importance of fishing" to the whole economy of Iceland calls for an exception to the usual objection to unilateral action in international disputes.

In the same issue there is a very illuminating commentary on "The Legal Concept of the Continental Shelf", the right to mineral wealth in land under waters close to the coast. This will be discussed in the next issue. —W. J. L.

## *The Music Selection*

We are happy to be able to make a music selection which is most appropriate for this issue of the magazine. It is regrettable that the music composition could not be printed across the page but that could not be done without reducing the size in which case the words and even the notes would have been difficult to read.

### THE AUTHOR

The author of the poem is Ása frá Ásum. Her Christian name is Ása and she was born at Ásum in Húnavatns-sýsla in Iceland. Her parents are Jón Gíslason and Anna Jónsdóttir. In 1942 Ása graduated from Teachers College in Reykjavik. Later she went to the United States and in 1947 got her Master's Degree in Education and Psychology at the University of North Dakota. She went back to Iceland and taught school for some years.

But the scene changes. She married Ingvi Ólafsson, who is in the government service in Reykjavik. According to custom she is either Ása frá Ásum or Ása Jónsdóttir in Iceland but Mrs. Ingvi Ólafsson in the English language world. Though Frú Ása changed occupations she fortunately has not discarded her gift of writing poetry.

### THE COMPOSER OF THE MUSIC

The composer of the music is Thordis Louise, daughter of the late Nikolas and Anna Ottenson of Winnipeg.

When only eight years old Louise started to play the organ and at the age of 13 was taking piano lessons

from the late Jonas Pálsson. When she took lessons on the pipe organ from the brilliant pipe organ player the late Fred M. Gee. Later she continued her studies on the pipe organ in Minneapolis.

Louise taught music for some years in Winnipeg and in 1927 moved to Los Angeles and a year later commenced studies in advanced theory and music composition with Dr. M. Carr Moore, recognized a leading organ composer of the United States. She completed a three year course in theory and harmony in a year and a half.

Louise, now Mrs. Steinthor Gudmunds, has close to 50 music compositions to her credit. In a contest in California in 1940 she was awarded first prize for "The Spinner's Song", a song composed by her cousin, the well known author, Laura Goodman Salomonson.

In March 1930 Louise married Steinthor Gudmunds. For some years they lived in Blaine, Wash., but at present reside at 3039 Hillegass Ave., Berkeley, Cal. They have two sons: Steinthor born in 1933, who was an aviator in the U. S. navy for four years and is now attending the University of California in Los Angeles; and Vilmar Nikolas born in 1935, at present in the U. S. Air Force, missiles division, and stationed in Formosa.

### THE TRANSLATOR

The translator is Jakobina Johnson, the well known poet, translator and lecturer of Seattle, Wash. She needs no introduction to the readers of this magazine.

Jólin  
(At Christmas)

Ása frá Ásum 1957

(Freely translated from the Icelandic  
by J. A. Robinson, August 1958)Louise Gudmundsdóttir  
April 1958

Handwritten musical notation for the first system of the song. It consists of a treble and bass staff with a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the staff.

Vís ljós- a stjör- ur ljóð a' ok- kar tung- um  
(With star- ry lights of yule- tide bright- ly glow- ing  
our songs of

Handwritten musical notation for the second system of the song. It consists of a treble and bass staff with a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the staff.

Töl- ta- thá- tís- tinn- i dag. Tós- öll- um  
praise from ev- y heav- a- scend. For um- To  
all

Handwritten musical notation for the third system of the song. It consists of a treble and bass staff with a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the staff.

eld- ti jafn- sem ung- um, fer ösk- tús- þess- um, - sset- við lífs- ins hag.  
will on Earth is flow- ing As lov- ing wish- es young and old ex- tend.  
(May love and peace within our hearts abide  
Reflect the spirit of this Holy Night.  
And may its vision, comforting and guiding,  
Forever lead us into realms of light!)



## DR. VILHJALMUR STEFANSSON VISITS NORTH DAKOTA AND MANITOBA



Dr. Vilhjalmur Stefansson

At the invitation of the University of North Dakota and University of Manitoba, Dr. Vilhjalmur Stefansson, noted Icelandic explorer and author, with Mrs. Stefansson, came from his New York home in November to lecture and to tour the state and province.

Dr. Stefansson was invited to participate in the 75th anniversary celebration of the University of North Da-

kota and in Manitoba he delivered a lecture at the University, his topic being *The Depth and Breadth of Canada*.

The following day a luncheon was tendered in his honor by the Icelandic National League, with Dr. Richard Beck, league president, presiding. Greetings were brought by Hon. D. Roblin, premier of the province.

A feature was a message of welcome by Hon. Dr. George Johnson, member of the legislature for Gimli constituency in which Dr. Stefansson's birthplace is located, and also Manitoba Minister of Health.

In his reply Dr. Stefansson reminisced on his early years, his first attempts at exploration and the many Canadian leaders with whom he came in contact, particularly the then prime minister of Canada Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Borden. He noted specifically that he had then also made the acquaintance of the then premier of Manitoba, Hon. Sir Rodmond Roblin, grandfather of the present premier.

The visit to Arnes, birthplace of the noted explorer was made by mail from Winnipeg. Dr. and Mrs. Stefansson along with other members of the motorcade were guests at a dinner in their honor at Geysir, tendered by the branch there of the Icelandic National League.

Dr. and Mrs. Stefansson subsequently returned to their home in New York. —T.O.S.T.

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Llewellyn, 15-year-old son of Mr. Ralston Hunter and Mrs. Hunter (Bjorg Axdal, formerly of Wynyard, Sask.), of Vancouver, B. C., won the scholarship award last summer for general proficiency in passing from Grade 10 at Killarney school in Vancouver.



## THE ICELANDIC SOCIETY OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA



Dr. Niels Dungal, Director of the Department of Pathology in the University of Iceland arrived in San Francisco, in time for the Fall semester, as guest Professor at the University of California. He leaves in January.

Páll Dungal, Dr. Niels Dungal's nephew, arrived at the same time. He is a student in horticulture, specializing in orchid culture and while here attended the Rod MacLellan Nursery in South San Francisco.

Sigurgeir Jonsson from Vík in Mýrdal and his wife Ingibjörg of Reykjavík, came in September. He is on a two year Fullbright Scholarship to Stanford University, Palo Alto (about fifty miles south of San Francisco.)

On the 24th of October the Icelandic Society of Northern California held a Masquerade Party and Dance at the Björnson's Hall, Oakland, California. Ladies first and second prizes for costumes were Indian and Gypsy,—the men's Viking and Spanish, respectively. A good time was had by all.

The annual election of officers took place at the Swedish Hall on Market Street, San Francisco, Sunday afternoon November 16th. The presiding President Dr. K. S. Eymundson was unanimously re-elected; Vice President, Max Knight; Recording Secretary, Ralph Johnson; Corresponding Sec., re-elected unanimously, Mrs. Björgvin Johnson, (Thorley); Treasurer, Ingvi

Baldwinson; Local Publicity, Halldor Helgasson; Foreign Publicity, Louise Gudmunds. The President appointed Mrs. Ray Bushnell (Jennie) as Food Chairman for the year, and Mrs. Max Knight (Svava Danielson of Blaine) as Decorating Chairman; Mrs. John MacLeod (Gudrun Jonsdottir of Reykjavík), Serving Chairman; Halldor Helgason, Property Custodian.

Early this fall, Ralph Johnson, who is a commercial artist, contributed a handsome letterhead to the Society, for which much appreciation has been voiced. It includes a picture of the statue of Ingolfur Arnason, first settler in Iceland.

Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Kruytbosch are new residents in Berkeley. Carlos is enrolled at the University of California working for his Ph.D. in sociology. He is a Hollander by birth and his father is the Consul-General for the Netherlands in Vancouver, B.C., Canada. His wife is Edith, second daughter of Martin and Freda Olafson of Winnipeg but recently of Vancouver. Dorothy, her sister, expects to arrive here sometime around the Christmas Holidays. She will be remembered as the winner of the Diamond Medal some years ago

for being the fastest typist in the Dominion of Canada. Bechtel Engineering Company of San Francisco are spon-

soring her across the boundary line. She will be in their employ.

Louise Gudmund

## SIGHT and INSIGHT

From the Icelandic of FRÍÐJÓN STEFÁNSSON

Translated by BOGI BJARNASON

An old and battered pick-up truck is making its way over the pitted road along the strand. In the cab, alongside the driver, sits a Faroese girl, by name Kristine Jensen. Small, dark of complexion, with a conspicuous birthmark over the right eye, she is clad in a tattered coat—a rather homely girl of diffident mien. She has set out on her journey homeward after the summer's stint as serving-girl at the rural stead denominated The Holm. In her lap is a bag holding her effects, including her pay for the season's work. She is scheduled to board a fishing vessel for the overseas lap. Nostalgic fervor invests her, but the driver has desisted from trying to maintain conversation and concentrates his attention on the rutty road. His is not an easy task.

The truck is soon out of sight of the stead as it rounds a curve. But by the barn-door stands a young man who appears to gaze after it. He is of sturdy build, if pale of countenance, and of striking appearance as he leans against the stone wall of the barn. A short while ago he had clasped the hand of the departing girl, and felt the warmth of her palm against his. Then the door of the truck-cab had closed with a bang, and in its way had said: Never-more!

For the space of a summer they—he and the girl—had worked side-by-side. Her proximity had been balm to his soul; her sweet voice and song now

reverberated in his consciousness. She had told him about her homeland, the gale-battered isles set in the midst of the ocean, their beauty in summer dress, where lush hillsides slanted down to an azure sea. All that she had said was interesting; she herself was interesting, almost an adventure.

Now she was gone, this object of his virginal love. He would never see her again.

The people had said—the people of the stead—that she was homely. How could they say that! They had also derided and mimicked her manner of speech. Yet her expressions were so clear and pretty, if tinged with a foreign accent. Had they not noted the timbre of her voice, so sweet and soothing like the murmur of a brook?

"Mine fair homeland . . ."

Thus she had sung, and this note echoed in his mind, only to die away like the gleam of a candle that is being carried off in the dark of night.

Before him is the stark reality: Kristine is gone. Even the rattle of the truck has subsided in the distance.

The gentle southwind caresses the face of the youth, lifting a stray lock from his brow. He turns toward the hills looming in the north, draped in mantles of blue haze. The tang of autumn assails his nostrils, and in the distance the bleat of sheep may be heard.

Up there, well within the confines

of the hills, are the lush dales described in the tales of adventure, greensward and copse, and water-brooks whose murmurs are like her voice. There he builds his castles, with Kristine the mistress. Such will be his dreams as he silently goes about his chores—toting the fodder from the hayloft to the kine in the dark but pleasantly warm barn. He knows every turn and corner of this barn as he knows the shape of

his palm. He can dream that even the impossible may come to pass.

A sigh escapes him as he turns towards the house, and proceeds to make his fumbling way, slowly, tentatively. Near the doorway of the house his foot encounters a block of firewood and he stumbles. Picking himself up he feels for the jamb and blinks his eyes—those blue-grey eyes that have never known the light of day.

## OUR READERS' COMMENTS

The following are excerpts from letters received by **The Icelandic Canadian**. There is appreciation of the magazine, which is gratifying, and there is constructive criticism, which is welcome. All the correspondents have the best interests of the magazine at heart.

(A free translation)

Many thanks for the copies of **The Icelandic Canadian**, which I have read with interest and pleasure. The magazine appears to be a worthwhile publication and I see where it could have a strong influence on those of the younger generations who do not speak Icelandic but nevertheless have a warm regard for Iceland.

—Einar Sveinsson,  
Reykjavik, Iceland

★

I sure enjoy the magazine very much and would not be without it. It certainly is interesting and it keeps us in touch with Icelanders all over the world. —Mrs. W. C. Allan,

13 Mellick Ave. Kenora Ont.

★

My thanks for your note and copy of **The Icelandic Canadian**. It appears to be very well done throughout, reflecting credit on all concerned . . . The meat in this issue, as in the others

that I have seen, is news of what up-and-coming people of Icelandic origin are doing. —Bogi Bjarnason,

Cultus Lake, B. C.

★

I have no special complaint to make about the **Icelandic Canadian** magazine except that it features chiefly the third and fourth generation of Icelandic origin in this country, people about whose family connections I know nothing at all. The magazine contains little for the benefit of the rising generation concerning Iceland's role in world affairs. Instead, there are chiefly reports on scholastic standings and university degrees. We wish to retain our association with Iceland and things Icelandic to the very end.

—H. E. Magnusson,  
Seattle, Washington

★

Your investment of your time in the magazine surely will pay satisfactory spiritual dividends. We—2 were always happy that we made the trip to Iceland at that historic time. It gave us and opportunity to continually emphasize the fact that Iceland ranks with Denmark as a leader in eugenic thought. —C. M. Goethe,

Sacramento, California

## Beautiful and Penetrating Messages

Rannveig K. G. Sigbjörnsson, of Foam Lake, Sask., an author and a frequent contributor to the Icelandic Weeklies, has the somewhat rare ability of being able, on one occasion, to paint a beautiful word picture, and on another occasion to give expression to her thought in forceful figures of speech. Here are two examples.

### WOODS AND MEADOWS

"Let me feel Thy Presence,  
Let me know Thy love,  
Let me see Thy beauty,  
Shining from above."

Once when walking by myself up north on our Homestead—it was early in June, I saw among the trees, near an open meadow, a semi-circle of violets among a thickly grown, level space of green grass. Within the circle of the violets was a big and beautiful dandelion shining his golden crown all around him and looking toward the blue sky and white clouds sailing along in the azure heavens. The green grass was soft and the trees waved their lovely foliage. The woods breathed the fragrance of spring.

The semi-circle of violets reminded me of a choir in church and the dandelion seemed to me to represent the man of God delivering his message to the people. The green grass represented the people.

It was a beautiful day. We have had many such days and this one seemed to me to be among the best.

The tall trees across the meadow fitted most beautifully into the scene. Away up near the top somewhere among the waving, green foliage was

the soloist Robin Redbreast. He sang with main and might.

CHEER UP! CHEER UP! CHEER UP! CHEER UP!

—R.K.G.S.

### THE CROWN OF ICELAND

The Passion Hymns of Hallgrím Pétursson is the crown of Iceland the Christian era.

—R.K.G.S.

### DR. EDWARD JOHNSON ELECTED TO HIGH POST



Dr. Edward Johnson

Dr. Edward Johnson of Selkirk has been elected president of the Manitoba Medical Association at the annual convention in Winnipeg last fall. Dr. Johnson, who succeeds Dr. C. Schoemperlen of Winnipeg, remains in the post for one year. The association includes practising physicians in the Province of Manitoba and has more than one thousand members.



# IN THE NEWS . . .

## GIMLI HONORS DR. GEORGE JOHNSON, Minister of Health and Public Welfare

More than 400 Gimli citizens filled Gimli Canadian Legion hall Sept 26, to honor Hon. Dr. George Johnson, Manitoba Minister of Health and Public Welfare, and Mrs. Johnson prior to their leaving to make their home in Winnipeg.

The gathering was an expression of appreciation and affection for Dr. Johnson who had been a resident physician there for the past eight years in partnership with Dr. Jonas Johnson who has taken over the practice.

Eric Stefanson, MP for Selkirk federal constituency, was chairman and presented Dr. Johnson with a briefcase and an engraved watch on behalf of his friends. Dr. P. H. T. Thorlakson, Winnipeg, president of the board of directors of Betel, home for senior citizens, was principal speaker, paying tribute to Dr. Johnson's work as physician to the home as well as in other fields.

Good wishes were extended to Dr. Johnson by Barney Egilson, mayor of Gimli, S. J. Stefanson, reeve of the Rural Municipality of Gimli, Allan Bailey, president of Gimli Chamber of Commerce, Oli Narfason, vice-president of the Gimli Kinsmen Club, J. H. Menzies who spoke on behalf of Gimli branch of the Canadian Legion, also on behalf of Gimli Lutheran Church in which Dr. Johnson was a member of the board, and by Dr. F. E. Warriner of Sandy Hook.

Miss Sigga Hjartarson, matron of Betel, presented Dr. Johnson with a gladstone bag, a gift from the res-

idents of the home, many of whom were present.

To Mrs. Johnson was presented a spoon by Mrs. S. J. Tergesen on behalf of Gimli Women's Institute in which Mrs. Johnson had been an active member, while Mrs. R. Howard presented her with a table setting of crystalware and an engraved watch on behalf of the community.

Squadron Leader Russell, chief administrative officer of the Royal Canadian Air Force Station at Gimli, spoke on behalf of RCAF personnel.

A letter of appreciation from Dr. S. O. Thompson of Riverton, Dr. Johnson's predecessor in the Manitoba Legislature and a personal friend of long standing, was read by the chairman. Refreshments and a dance followed the formal ceremonies.

Dr. Johnson was elected Progressive Conservative member of the Manitoba Legislature in the provincial election last spring and subsequently named health minister in the Roblin Government. While discontinuing permanent residence, Dr. and Mrs. Johnson are retaining their summer home at Gimli.

★

## A GIFTED CONSTABLE

Constable George Sveinbjornson, sounded the bugle call at the 24th opening of the Canadian parliament. He was one of a detachment of Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers who escorted Governor-General Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey on this occasion of state.

While with the RCMP in Regina the winter of 1956-57 George served as trumpeter with the detachment's brass band, won two awards for swim-



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ming and an honor award as a ho  
man.

After being recommended for  
famous RCMP musical ride organ  
ation he as transferred to Otta  
where he completed his training  
graduated as a member of the  
nowned force.

In June of 1958 he was transfer  
to Montreal where he now sounds  
bugle for the flag-raising ceremon  
a ritual exclusive to the RCMP  
a tourist attraction which draws vi  
ors out to view the daily perform  
at 7 a.m.

George was born in Thingv  
settlement near Churchbridge, Sa  
the son of Eyolfur Sveinbjornson  
the former Mararet Lowenburger.  
paternal grandparents were Gudmun  
ur and Thuridur Sveinbjornson. G  
mundur was the son of Gudmund  
Sveinbjornson and Gudrun Thorste

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dottir, and Thuridur the daughter of Eyjolfur Hinrikson and Ingibjorg Bjornsdottir, all pioneer settlers of the Thingvalla settlement.

★

## APPOINTED TO IMPORTANT POST



**James Fulton Miller**

James Fulton Miller C.A., was recently appointed Administrator of Green, Blankstein, Russell and Associates, Architects and Consulting Engineers, with head office in Winnipeg and branch offices in Regina, Calgary and Ottawa.

Mr. Miller graduated from Daniel McIntyre Institute and served his chartered accountancy articles with a prominent Winnipeg firm. Before joining Green, Blankstein and Russell, he was Assistant-Treasurer with Bristol Aircraft (Western) Limited.

Mr. Miller is married and has one child. His maternal grandparents were the late Steingrímur and Thorun Thorarínson of Winnipeg.

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**DR THORVALDUR JOHNSON**  
**GIVEN FELLOWSHIP AWARD**



**Dr. Thorvaldur Johnson**

Dr. Thorvaldur Johnson, known as one of the world's leading authorities on cereal rusts and rust genetics, in October was awarded a fellowship by the Agricultural Institute of Canada at a meeting of the Winnipeg Branch.

The award was in recognition of many scientific contributions Dr. Johnson has made and credits him with contributing more to the understanding of cereal rust problems than any other Canadian.

Son of the late Sigurjon and Gudrun Thorvaldsdottir Johnson, long resident at Odda in the Arnes district in Manitoba, Dr. Johnson was born there in 1897. Receiving his elementary education in Manitoba he attended the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Minnesota and received a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the latter in 1930.

Dr. Johnson has since 1925 been



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OUT THE  
DREWRY'S**

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BEER	.	GRAPE	.	LIME

he Manitoba University plant pathology laboratory in Winnipeg, in charge since 1952.

★

### WINS \$1800 SCHOLARSHIP



Margaret Mary Britnell

Margaret Mary Britnell is the winner of a Provincial scholarship from Queen's University, Kingston. The three-year scholarship is for \$1800.00 plus travelling expenses. Miss Britnell, a seventeen-year-old daughter of Professor G. E. Britnell and Mrs. Britnell, of 121 Elliot St., Saskatoon, Sask., has a distinguished record of scholarship achievement in public and high school. She is a student of Luther College, Regina, and for the past three years, she was awarded the Luther College scholarship for first Year Arts studies at the college. In graduating this spring, a scholarship which she will vacate to accept the Queen's University award.

Professor Britnell is the head of the department of Economics and Political Science at the University of Saskatchewan, and Mrs. Britnell (nee Pauline May Paulson) is the daughter of the late W. H. Paulson and Mrs. Paulson of Regina, and Leslie, Sask.

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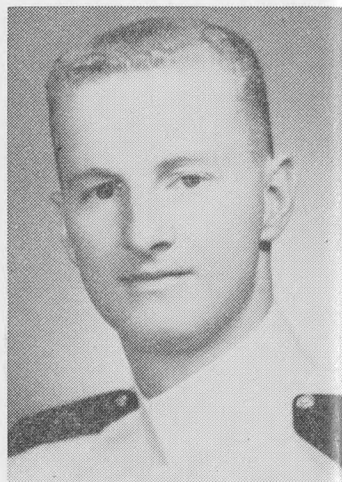
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## GRADUATES FROM U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY



Kenneth A. McNutt, B.Sc.

Kenneth Alexander McNutt, B.Sc., graduated from the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, in June last.

A native of Los Angeles, California, he is the son of Ronald J. and Adeline (nee Jorundson, formerly of Lund, Manitoba) McNutt, 2358 Colorado Blvd.

Kenneth attended Eagle Rock High School for three years and spent a year at Occidental College, studying for a degree in engineering in preparation for the Naval Academy.

Active in sports, he won the Stanford Nall Gymnastics Memorial Award, last year, for "outstanding character, leadership and sportsmanship". During the award parade, he was one of nineteen men who received a letter from the Superintendent, which read:

"These midshipmen have been selected as having contributed most of the officerlike qualities and positive characters to the development of the spirit and loyalty within the Brigade."

Captain of Gymnastics, Second-Rank



mental Sub-Commander, Chairman of the Reception Committee—all responsible and demanding jobs were capably filled this year by Ken McNutt. He is also an active member of the officers' Christian Union.

Commissioned as Second-Lieutenant, Kenneth has chosen the United States Marine Corps for his career. To quote in part from the year-book: "We can rest assured that this will make the Navy richer by one outstanding junior officer."

★

### RUTH MAGNUSSON WINS TWO NURSING AWARDS



Miss Eybjorg Ruth Magnusson

Miss Eybjorg Ruth Magnusson of Churchbridge, Sask., won two awards when she graduated from the Yorkton General Hospital School of Nursing in May, 1958. She was awarded the medal for obstetrical technique, donated by Dr. H. A. L. Portnuff, and the award for devotion to duty given by the Business and Professional Women's Club of Yorkton.

Miss Magnusson, one of eleven graduates, is the daughter of Mr. and

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Mrs. Agust Magnusson who farms in the Thingvalla district near Chumby bridge. Her paternal grandparents were the late Magnus Magnusson and Gudrun Nikulasdottir. Grandparents on her mother's side were the late Einar olfur Hinrikson and Ingibjorg Bjornsdottir. All four grandparents were pioneers of the Thingvalla district.

★

## GETS IMPORTANT POST WITH CANADIAN GENERAL ELECTRIC



Raymond E. Jonasson

An announcement from Canadian General Electric's motor and control department notes that Raymond E. Jonasson has been appointed district sales manager, central district, with headquarters in Toronto, Ont. Mr. Jonasson, who joined Canadian General Electric in 1949, is a graduate in mechanical engineering of the University of Saskatchewan. Mr. Jonasson was born at Wynyard, Sask., and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Oli Jonasson of Wynyard; grandparents Johannes and Bjorg Jonasson and Sæmundur and Steinunn Sigurdson, Mountain, N.B.

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## NEWS SUMMARY

**Norman Gisli Arnason** of Vancouver, graduate in Electrical Engineering from the University of British Columbia, has entered the employ of the British Columbia Power Commission.

His brother, **Stefan Baldwin**, a graduate in Agriculture in 1945 of the U. of B. C., is a Livestock Fieldman at Vancouver for the Federal Department of Agriculture.

They are the sons of Mrs. Sigurbjorg (Einarson) Arnason, and the late Stefan Arnason of Vancouver, and formerly of Piney, Man.

Norman Gisli was born in Piney, on May 18, 1934. The family moved to British Columbia in 1937 when he was three years of age. He attended Norquay Public School and King Edward High School in Vancouver. He entered

the University of British Columbia and graduated in Electrical Engineering on May 21, 1958.

Stefan Baldwin was born in Piney on May 22, 1925. He moved with his family to Vancouver in 1937, where he attended public and high school. One year after high school graduation, he entered the Faculty of Agriculture at the U. of B. C., graduating in 1948 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture, majoring in Animal Husbandry. He was employed by the Provincial Department of Agriculture as Assistant District Agriculturist in the Lower Fraser Valley and Prince George areas. He joined the Production Service, Livestock and Poultry Production Division, Canada Department of Agriculture in 1951, where he is presently employed as Livestock Fieldman.



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CANADA

Members of the Icelandic-American Club of Southern California have an admirable journal, the English-language *Felagsbladid*, by means of which they are kept informed concerning the activities and comings and goings of Icelanders there and elsewhere. The masthead declares *Felagsbladid* is "published in the interests of more good times together," and its columns tell of gatherings of Icelandic Californians, of visits by them to Iceland, the Continent and Canada, and of men and women coming from Iceland to study or to visit friends and relatives.

Editor and publisher is Mrs. Gudny M. Thorwaldson, 1034 W. 76th St., Los Angeles, Cal.

★

Mrs. Ragnhildur Guttormson, of Middlechurch, Manitoba, (Mrs. Stefan Guttormson) has had a manuscript accepted for publication by the Ryerson Press of Toronto. It is a story with the background of the early settlements in Manitoba, and is entitled "Ian of Red River". It will be published early in the new year. Congratulations to Mrs. Guttormson.

When Peace  
shall over  
all the earth  
Its ancient  
splendors fling  
And the whole  
world send back  
the song  
Which now the  
angels sing.



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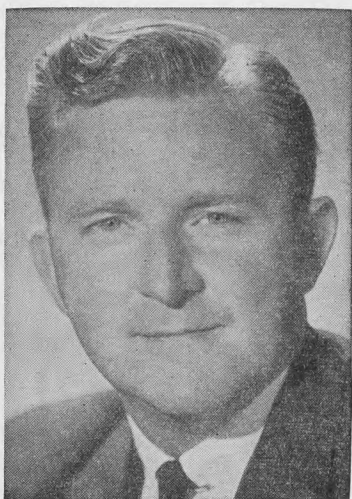
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MR. RONALD A. OWEN

Mr. H. W. Mulholland, President of O'Keefe Brewing Company (Manitoba) Limited, has pleasure in announcing that, Mr. Ronald A. Owen has been appointed Vice-President and General Manager. Mr. Owen succeeds Mr. Andy Foulds, who is taking over new duties with a related company.

Mr. Owen served with the Canadian Infantry Corps during World War II and as a lieutenant with the 27 Brigade in Europe. Later, he served as a captain in the militia.

Mr. Owen was formerly sales manager of the company, and has for the past nine years been connected with the Canadian Brewing industry.

He is active in Kiwanis, and is a director of the Sales and Advertising Club of Winnipeg, as well as being a member of the United Services Institute of Manitoba.

Last summer the three children of Rev. and Mrs. Eirikur Brynjolfsson of Vancouver, Gudny, 8 years old, Gudmundur, 10, and Brynjolfur, 11 years old, won special awards for high standing in their grades at Cedar Rhodes School in Vancouver.

★

Louise Gudmunds presented a program on "Iceland and Its People" to the Women's Society of Christian Service of the Trinity Methodist Church in Berkeley, May 29th, 1958. She told about the settlement of Iceland, the literature, economics, music and culture, down through the centuries to the present time. Ása from Ásurnes (Jonsdottir) Mrs. Ingvi Olafsson gave a talk on Modern Iceland. Gunnhild Snorraddottir Lorensen showed slides and explained them. Ingibjorg Gunnarsdottir (Mrs. Ralph Johnson) made all the "pönnukökur" pancakes that were later served with tea. These three women wore national dresses that they had brought with them from Iceland. Mrs. Elvin Kristjansson (Margaret Sigmar) sang Icelandic songs. Eighty-five women attended, filling the Fellowship Room to capacity. They expressed themselves as being much enlightened and very pleased. Various works of handicraft in wood, wool and silver were exhibited.

★

Mr. and Mrs. Allan Johnson have gone to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, for three years. Mr. Johnson, a graduate of Brandon College, received a Bachelor of Pedagogy degree from the University of Manitoba this year. He will teach science in Ethiopia. His wife, the former Maureen Sills, is from Kelowna and Winnipeg. Enroute they visited London, Ireland, Brussels, Paris, Rome and Athens. See Icel. Can., Winter issue of 1957, page 43.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Peterson of 1136 9th Street, Saskatoon, Sask., celebrated their golden wedding anniversary last fall. Mr. Peterson was born in North Dakota and Mrs. Peterson in Iceland. They were married in North Dakota. Their ten children were present at the anniversary celebration.

★

Senator G. S. Thorvaldson of Winnipeg last fall was appointed a member of the Canadian delegation to the United Nations. Senator Thorvaldson, a former member of the Manitoba Legislature and past president of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, was appointed to the Canadian Senate a year ago.

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Hon. Valdimar Bjornson of Minneapolis was re-elected treasurer of the state of Minnesota in the recent elections in the United States. Mr. Bjornson received a large majority over the opposing candidate.

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Hon. Joseph T. Thorson, president of the Exchequer Court of Canada, Ottawa, with Mrs. Thorson last summer made a six-month tour of the Continent and Iceland, primarily to attend the convention of the International Association of Jurists of which Mr. Justice Thorson has been president since its inception in 1952. They spent six days in Reykjavik where, among other things, Mr. Justice Thorson was guest speaker at a meeting of the Bar Association of Iceland. He delivered an address in Icelandic.



Haraldine Magnusson, winner of the Goulet scholarship last year, won the Legion scholarship at Langruth last spring, and a Provincial Government Bursary of \$100.00. She is now attending the Teachers' College in Winnipeg. She is the daughter of Gudmund and Jona (Johnson) Magnusson of Langruth. See Icel. Can. Winter 1958.



Mr. and Mrs. Agust Saedal of Winnipeg celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in October. Both were born in Iceland and came to Canada in 1908. They have eight children, all of whom were present for the celebration.

ALL THE BEST FOR CHRISTMAS ...



## BOOK REVIEW

### KUML OG HAUGFÉ ÚR HEIÐNUM SÍÐ Á ÍSLANDI.

Reykjavík; Bókaútgáfan Norðri, 1956  
(Kristján Eldjárn)

Reviewed by **RICHARD BECK**

As indicated in the preface to this comprehensive work, a good deal of material on Icelandic archeology has previously been published, much of it in the Yearbook of the Icelandic Archeological Society (*Árbók fornleifafélagsins*), for years edited by Dr. Matthías Þórðarson, former director of the National Museum, who contributed a number of significant articles to the Yearbook.

The work under review, written by Dr. Kristján Eldjárn, the present director of the National Museum, is, how-

ever, the first all-inclusive study on the subject. Entitled in English "Graves and Antiquities from the Heathen Period in Iceland", it includes detailed accounts of all such graves found in Iceland down to the end of the year 1955, and is based on personal inspection of a number of the grave sites, but primarily on an extensive and intensive examination of all the written sources about them as well as of the antiquities discovered themselves. The author also presents a general picture of burial customs in Iceland before the introduction of Christianity in the year 1000, describes the objects found in the graves, discusses these from a cultural-historical point of view, and relates the style of ancient Icelandic ornamentation to similar developments

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in other Northern lands.

The book deals specifically with Icelandic archeological material from the Viking Age, 875-1000, boardly speaking. The material is arranged in a particularly clear and orderly fashion, eloquently bespeaking the author's splendid grasp of his wide-ranging subject of study.

In the first chapter ("The Discovery of Iceland in the Light of Archeology") the author centers his discussion around three Roman coins, found in eastern Iceland since the turn of the century. All three are of the type of Roman currency known as *Antonianii* and were coined during the reigns of Emperors Aurelianus (270-75), Probus (267-82), and Diocletianus (284-305) respectively. The fundamental question is, of course, how these Roman coins found their way to Iceland. Dr. Eldjárn thinks it most likely that they were brought there by the crew

of a ship from the fleet of the Roman admiral and self-appointed British "Emperor" Carausius. During his seven years reign (until his death in 293) Britain became a great naval power, and his ships ranged widely around Europe and along the Atlantic coast. Dr. Eldjárn conjectures that one of the ships may have been driven out of course to Iceland and members of the crew may have left the Roman coins there. This remarkable archeological find throws a new light on the pre-history and discovery of Iceland before the arrival of the Norse settlers in the ninth century.

Chapter Two contains a list and descriptions of Icelandic graves from the Viking Age. These total 246 and have been found in 123 places in various parts of the country, the largest number in the south, the north, and the northeast. Many drawings and excellent illustrations add to the interest.

## GREETINGS

The Christmas Season is a time for good fellowship and well wishing.

The year 1959 promises to be a prosperous one for Canada. The nation's economy is expanding at a steady rate and most segments of Canada's business hope to share in this bright future.

What of Canadian agriculture—will it share in these good times?

While farmers have made great strides in technical efficiency: barns and bins are bulging with harvested crops and livestock; farmers express anxiety about their financial security.

For the past six years, Canadian farm people have faced the same story—that the relative position of their industry, within the general economy, has declined. The aim and purpose of those thousands of farmers who hold membership in the Canadian Wheat Pools is to secure a fair share of the national income; a prospect which is generally accepted as a reasonable one.

To achieve this desirable goal, farmers will need the assistance of governments and support from business.

It will be "A Good New Year" for all when Canada's farmers share in the general prosperity enjoyed by their country.

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and impressiveness of this fascinating chapter, which constitutes the heart of the book and furnishes the foundation for its special and basic contribution to the history of Icelandic archeology.

Chapter Three consists of a general survey of Icelandic burial customs, and brings to light some striking facts. Thus it appears that cremation was unknown in Iceland, not unlikely reflecting Christian influence. Boat-graves are also rare in Iceland. Icelandic graves of old are generally characterized by simplicity and in that regard parallel similar graves from the period in Norway and the Norse settlements in Shetland, the Orkneys, and Scotland, where cremation was also virtually unknown.

Chapter Four deals in great detail with the many kinds of objects found in Icelandic graves or separately. These

consist of such possessions belonging to the dead person as a horse or a dog, various kinds of weapons and farm implements, in the case of the men; and correspondingly, in the case of the women, especially of ornaments treasured by them, such as brooches, bracelets, necklaces, and the like. The objects thus unearthed cast much light on the daily life and the external culture of the age in Iceland. Thus richly, illustrated chapter, therefore has a particularly great historical value. In general Icelandic graves were, however, sparingly furnished. In that respect too they resemble the most common graves in western Norway and the Norse colonies in Shetland, the Orkneys, and Scotland, attesting the racial ties and cultural affinities of the Icelanders with their Norse kinsmen in those lands.

In the fifth chapter Dr. Eldjárn

#### COMPLIMENTS

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discusses the style of Norse ornamentation during the Viking Age with special reference to Iceland. It is a very interesting aspect of Viking culture, here dealt with concisely and penetratingly, the account again enlivened and enhanced by a number of illustrations.

The same conciseness and penetration marks the sixth and closing chapter, in which the author gathers together the general conclusions of his extensive and authoritative study, which is certainly destined to remain, for years to come, the definitive survey and source book in the field. His findings establish that Iceland of old belongs positively within the cultural area of the Norse Viking age. At the same time, he rightly emphasizes the fact that the Icelanders very early be-

came a separate Norse nation with their special characteristics and social customs.

As in his earlier works, Dr. Eldjárn proves himself here both an excellent scholar and an unusually able writer, erudition, in the finest sense of the word, and readability of a high order characterize the book.

Each chapter is thoroughly documented, and there is a very full general bibliography, with an index in Icelandic, as well as an index to the text and a list of illustrations in English.

Originally presented as the author's doctoral dissertation at the University of Iceland, this very important and beautifully printed book is a splendid example of present-day Icelandic scholarship at its best, and does honor to all concerned.

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## DARKNESS A HAZARD TO PEDESTRIANS

With darkness coming before most people are home from work, the potential danger to pedestrians increases. In the glaring lights of the cities or the darkness of country roads, persons walking home should not rely on the

driver to be able to see them.

Unfortunately, most winter clothing is dark and against the dark background the walker can hardly be seen. For your own safety, try to wear something white, or carry something white if you are walking at night. But at all times, walk as though you don't think the driver can see you.

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An Associated Press news despatch from Portoroz in Yugoslavia, appearing in August 19 editions of North American newspapers, notes a victory in a chess tournament there by an Icelandic, Friðrik Ólafsson. The news item reads as follows:

"International chess master Geza Fuster, 48, of Toronto, lost Sunday to Friðrik Ólafsson of Iceland in their eighth-round match of the interzonal chess tournament. The match was started Saturday and adjourned."

★

### BEWARE THE OFFICE PARTY

Christmas is a season of generosity, but some hosts tend to become too generous—particularly as far as alcoholic beverages are concerned. This applies to firms and offices, as well as to persons in their own homes.

In every centre across Canada, police

forces are cracking down on the office Christmas party at which liquor is served. One of the worst places to spend Christmas is in jail, but safety officials have warned that drinking drivers will face the risk of having their Christmas dinner behind bars—cell bars.

Yet every Christmas, newspapers report deaths caused by drunken drivers. All too frequently, it is the innocent bystander or non-drinking motorist or passenger who suffers from the drunk's actions.

Make this a safe Christmas. If you drink, take a taxi or a bus.

★

### WATCH OUT FOR FIRE

(Canadian Scene)—Christmas in Canada is a traditional time for candles, lights and other ornaments and decor-

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ations both inside and outside of the home. These gay symbols of the Christian feast can carry with them tragedy and disaster unless care and common sense are used.

These are some simple safety rules:

Never place candles close to any flammable decorations nor on a Christmas tree or wooden or paper table centrepieces;

Never go out or go to sleep leaving the Christmas tree lights burning;

Before you overload your wiring system with many Christmas lights, have it checked;

Make sure any decorations you buy are marked as being non-inflammable;

Make sure any Christmas lights you buy are marked approved by the Canadian Standards Association.

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